



**Sulphur Springs Valley Electric**



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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**ORIGINAL**

311 E. Wilcox Drive · Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

March 11, 2010

Docket Control  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Docket numbers E-01575A-09-0453 and E-01575A-08-0328

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed please find an article that appeared in the Sierra Vista Herald reporting on the Public Forum regarding the 69kV line held in Patagonia, Arizona, on March 9, 2010.

Can you please docket this article on the ACC website referencing the above docket numbers?

Thank you.

Roxanne Williams  
Member Services Assistant

Original and 13 copies filed with Docket Control this 11th day of March 2010

Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**

MAR 15 2010

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AZ CORP COMMISSION  
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CAPITOL: PATAGONIA MEETING IS THE SECOND OF SEVERAL THROUGHOUT COOPERATIVE'S SERVICE AREA

# Sparks don't fly at public forum on controversial power line

BY DANA COLE  
HERALD/REVIEW

PATAGONIA — Herbert Loveland drove from Benson so he could speak during a public forum in Patagonia Tuesday evening.

The forum, conducted by Sulphur Springs Valley

Electric Cooperative, is the second of five public sessions the utility will be holding in different locations throughout its service area. During an August 2009 meeting, the Arizona Corporation Commission ordered the cooperative to conduct an independent third-party feasibility study

regarding a controversial power line SSVEC is proposing to build from Whetstone to Sonoita, followed by public forums where communities could view the study's findings, ask questions and provide input.

"I support SSVEC's line," Loveland said after listening

to the presenters. "Electricity sustains life and just about everything in a home requires electricity, including medical equipment." He urged the community to support the line's construction, part of a project SSVEC says is

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## CO-OP: Next forum will be Thursday

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needed to improve service for people living in Elgin, Sonoita and Patagonia. "You may not like the aesthetics of a pole, but think what it brings," Loveland concluded.

SSVEC asked Judy Gignac to serve as the forum's independent moderator. Gignac a 40-year Sierra Vista resident, briefly outlined why SSVEC has been ordered to hold the forums and introduced the presenters. At the conclusion of the presentations, Gignac also invited members of the public to speak.

There were six presenters, three from SSVEC and three from TRC Solutions, the firm that SSVEC hired to select the company that conducted the independent, third-party feasibility study.

SSVEC presenters included Jack Blair, chief member services officer; Ron Orozco, engineering manager, and Deborah White, real property manager.

TRC's presenters included Rick Goodwin, an engineer and project manager, Patrick Scharff, principal engineer, and Thomas Engles, Ph.D. and senior scientist.

Scharff presented the feasibility study's findings, which he said supported SSVEC's proposed line. Reading from the report's conclusions, he said, "...SSVEC should take immediate action to address current performance issues and capacity limits..."

He added that the preferred alternative, based on feeder performance and firm capacity requirements, is the construction of the new 69kV line along the Babocomari Ranch where SSVEC has easement rights. The study examined environmental impact to the area, alternate routes and renewable energy options, as part of its recommendation, Scharff said.

Overall, members of the public were in favor of SSVEC's project. Irma Sang who, along with her husband, Fred, owns the Patagonia Market, said she supports the 69kV line. She reported problems with equipment at their store because of

power surges and outages and believes the line will greatly reduce those kinds of issues.

Patagonia resident Mike O'Halloran said he supports the power line and the improvements it will bring to the community. "We have families with children growing up in this community," he said. "The only way we'll have jobs in this area is if we have reliable power."

Two people who oppose the project — Gail Getzwiller of Sonoita and Linda Kennedy, director of a research ranch that borders the Babocomari Ranch — questioned some of feasibility study's findings. Both are concerned about the environmental impact the power line could have on the area.

"I don't think people who live outside of the Sonoita area fully understand our concerns," Getzwiller said after the meeting. "We've been following this issue closely, but not everyone is as informed about the impact this could have on the area as we are."

The next public forum will be on Thursday at Elgin Elementary School, 23 Elgin Road in Sonoita, at 6 p.m.